



Soaring to New Heights: A Case Study of the AVIATE Program at the University of Dayton

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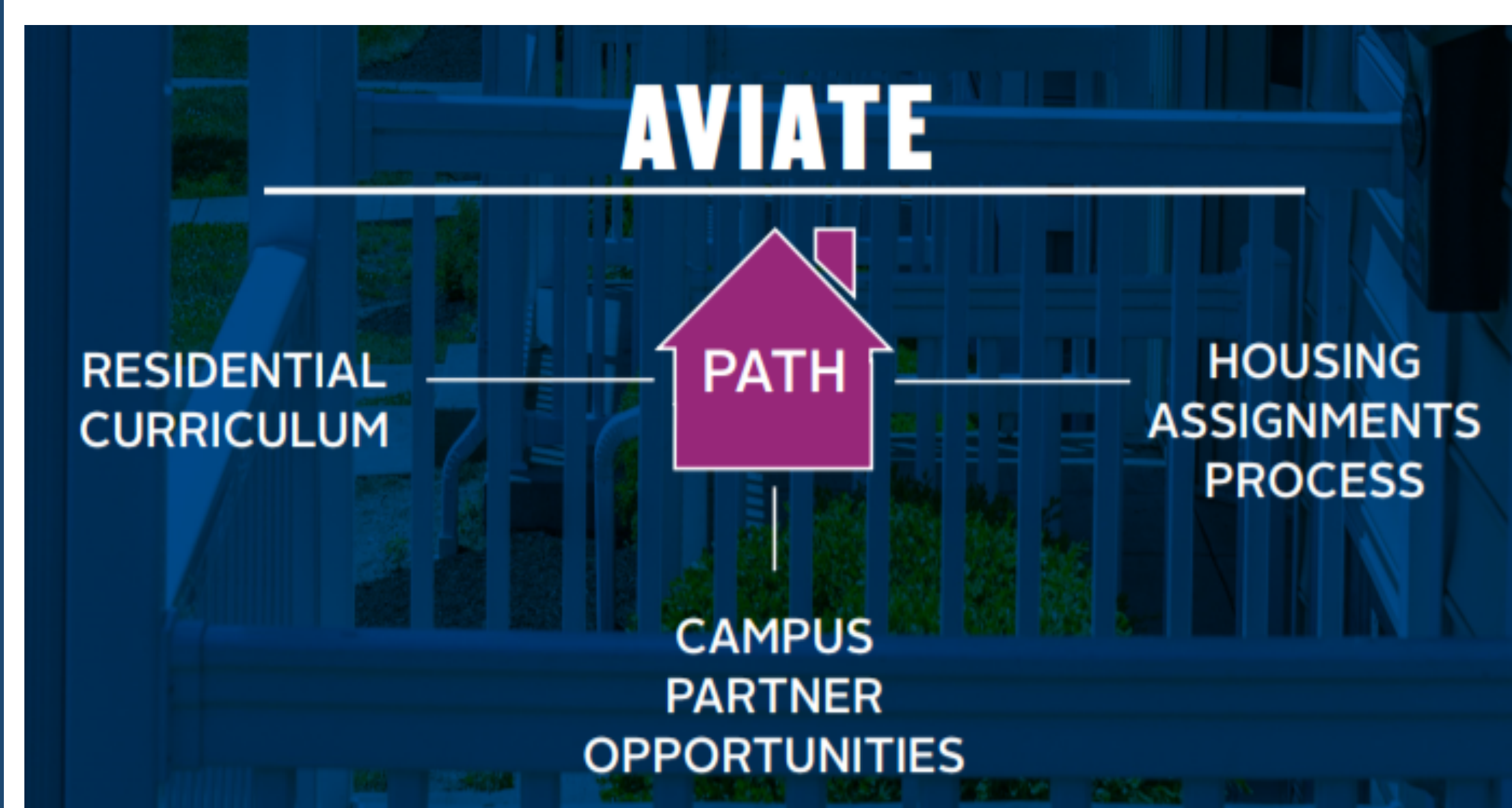
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Abstract

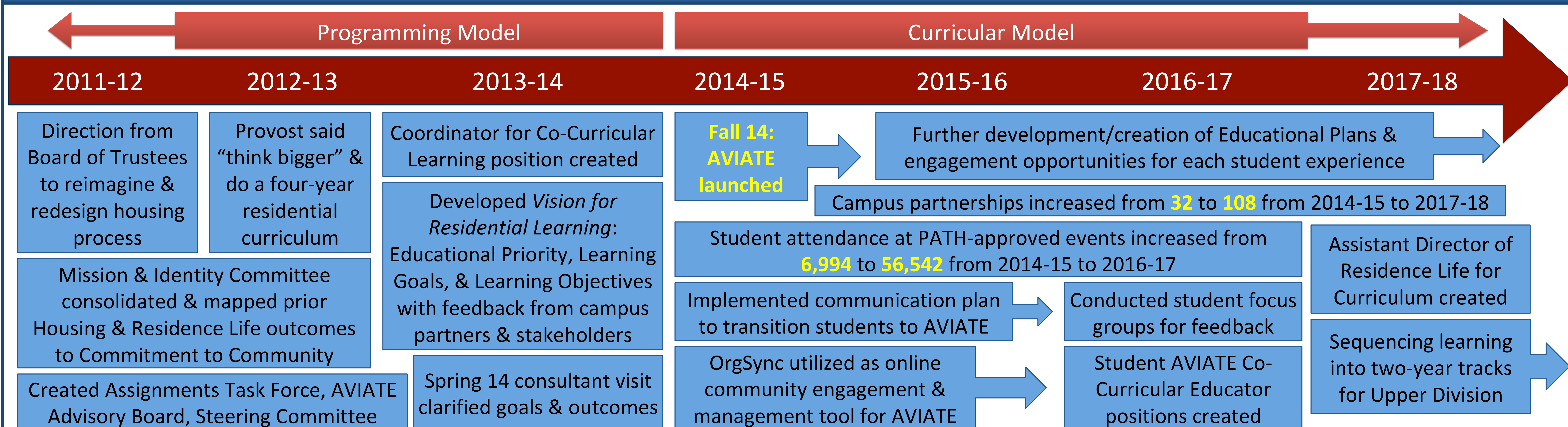
In 2014, the University of Dayton (UD) implemented a unique co-curricular education model called AVIATE. This qualitative case study analyzed the development and implementation of AVIATE through interviews with seven of the professional staff members at UD who helped to establish and/or currently manage the program. Additionally, university documents, historical information and external contexts were analyzed in relation to AVIATE. Findings illustrate the chronology of when and how AVIATE was developed.

What is AVIATE? *A Vision for Integrated, Applied and Transformative Education*



AVIATE leverages the student housing assignments process by integrating co-curricular learning in residence and learning from campus partnerships through a point system called PATH, or *Points Accumulated Towards Housing*. **“The more engaged [students] are in the residential community, the more PATH points [they] accumulate” and therefore, “the greater the likelihood [they] will receive [their] preferred housing type”** (University of Dayton, 2017).

Key Findings: Chronology of the Development and Implementation of AVIATE



Main Conclusions

- AVIATE has empowered UD students to have more autonomy over their housing assignments.
- Dedicated personnel and multiple committees were essential in success of AVIATE’s development.
- Overall, student affairs staff working with the curricular approach viewed themselves as educators.

Recommendations for Practitioners

- Shifting to a division-wide curriculum needs significant time dedicated to the development of all integrated pieces.
- Pay special attention to development of staff and student training on new system to smooth transition.
- Assessment strategies and continuous feedback through process is crucial.

Recommendations for Future Research

- Follow students over four years to track progress of their co-curricular learning through AVIATE.
- Analyze student motivations in relation to engagement with AVIATE.
- Study student staff experiences, specifically with facilitating and experiencing learning simultaneously.

Selected References

- Kerr, K. G., Tweedy, J., Edwards, K. E., & Kimmel, D. (2017). Shifting to curricular approaches to learning beyond the classroom. *About Campus*, 22(1), 22-31.
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